

DRAFT NOTES
NCLIS CONFERENCE CALL
August 13, 1998
11:30 a.m. - 12:25 p.m.

<i>Participants:</i>	Jeanne Simon, Chairperson Abe Abramson Walter Anderson Rebecca Bingham Joan Challinor Mary Furlong Martha Gould José-Marie Griffiths Bobby Roberts Joel Valdez (late due to Access operator error)
<i>Unable to Participate:</i>	LeVar Burton Diane Frankel Frank Lucchino Winston Tabb (for Dr. Billington)
<i>Staff:</i>	Robert S. Willard, Acting Executive Director F. Woody Horton Judy Russell Barbara Whiteleather

"Kids and the Internet"

Commissioner Anderson suggested changes to the draft letter prepared by Bob Willard to Charles Overby, Chairman and CEO, The Freedom Foundation, Arlington, VA. The title for the hearing, targeted for Tuesday, November 10, will be *"Internet and Kids -- The Promise and the Perils."* That date, Bob noted, was intentionally chosen because it follows election day, thus allowing attendance from the political community. Mr. Anderson noted that November 10 is the Marine Corps birthday.

Commissioner Challinor visited the Freedom Forum and found the surroundings very impressive. For web information on the Newseum's Freedom Forum, search <www.freedomforum.org>.

Mr. Anderson reported that calls are being received from people wanting to participate and/or present hearing testimony. Commissioners were requested to send to Bob their personal recommendations for participants, testifiers, Congressional staff attendance, etc. Commissioner Anderson recommended that Bob Willard serve as the focal point for this hearing.

Mr. Anderson encouraged Commissioners, who have not yet done so, to browse the Internet to view firsthand the vast amount of unfit material easily available to anyone, any age.

Judy Russell Named NCLIS Deputy Director

Bob Willard announced that Judy Russell has accepted the position of NCLIS Deputy Director, effective August 12. During Bob's absences, Judy serves as Acting Executive Director.

Commissioner/Staff Comments

Commissioners and staff reported on personal and NCLIS-related activities. In summary, NCLIS-related activities included:

- Abe Abramson - Now attending the Pacific Northwest Library Association, Sun Valley, ID, August 11-15, 1998. A meeting report will be prepared and sent to the NCLIS office.
- Joan Challinor -- Will be attending IFLA, along with Messrs. Tabb and Willard, in Amsterdam, August 14-21.

During the week of July 27, Commissioner Challinor observed the activities of the peer review panels for the National Leadership Grant proposals. She reported: (1) the panel for the museum-library collaborative worked well; and (2) the applications received were very good. A full report will be presented during the NCLIS/National Museum Services Board meeting, September 28.

- Mary Furlong -- The Senate Special Committee on Aging forum, "The Internet Empowering Older Americans" was held July 16 in the Hart Senate Office Building. Chairperson Simon presented a statement, representing very well the views of the Commission. Both Senator Grassley and Senator Breaux attended briefly. The forum highlighted just how wide spread the Internet is used among older adults.

Chairperson Simon praised Commissioner Furlong for suggesting and developing the forum and for moderating the program.

A copy of the complete hearing will be sent to all Commissioners. In addition, the Chairperson's testimony is available on NCLIS's web page.

During the hearing, a person testifying from Microsoft extended an invitation for NCLIS to meet with them during the fall meeting in Seattle. At the Chairperson's request, Bob Willard is following up on Microsoft's invitation.

- José-Marie Griffiths -- Recent activities include: (1) attending meeting of computer and library professionals from academic institutions, Snowmass, MA; (2) participating in an advisory group at the Department of Education studying the role of public and school libraries in educational reform conducted by Westat; (3) meeting with Senator Spencer Abraham (R-MI) on the pending information collections antipiracy act (in particular to discuss the concerns of the academic and library sectors). A hearing on this issue will be held in Washington, DC on September 9; and (4) a conference call with Bob Willard and Peyton Neal to discuss the Working Group on Issues of Journal Pricing, Publish and Copyright. As a result of that call, Commissioner Griffiths met with Professor Mackie-Mason, University of Michigan, who is working with publishers, e.g., Elsevier, on developing alternative pricing models for both paper and electronic journals. Professor Mackie-Mason agreed to brief Commissioner Griffiths and to participate in the September Working Group meeting via conference call.

Mr. Willard noted that he and Commissioner Challinor plan to meet with Karen Hunter of Elsevier during IFLA in Amsterdam.

Bob asked that Commissioner Griffiths call him to discuss the possibility of an ASIS presentation in September on this project.

- Bobby Roberts --The Gates Library Foundation has contributed \$5 million to the State of Arkansas to connect small and poor libraries to the Internet. "It is difficult to understand how these poor libraries can bear the burden of the connectivity, particularly without the e-rates," he stated.
- Bob Willard -- Attended the White House Conference on Library and Information Services Taskforce (WHCLIST) conference, August 7-8, Phoenix, AZ. Commissioner Valdez introduced the keynote speaker and spoke about the NCLIS surveys on public libraries and the Internet. Commissioner Frankel also attended. Clifford Lynch, Coalition for Networked Information (CNI), was the Saturday morning speaker. During the conference, it was announced that ALA's Executive Board has approved a work group to discuss the next "national forum." Conference resolutions/report/minutes will be sent to all Commissioners.

NCLIS/National Museum Services Board Meeting

Bob reported that the NCLIS meeting will begin on the afternoon of Sunday, September 27. A reception and dinner with the National Museum Services Board members will be held Sunday evening. The joint meeting will be held Monday morning at IMLS and adjourn after lunch. The NCLIS Members will meet Monday afternoon.

In a recent letter, Commissioner Frankel requested \$50.00 - \$100.00 from each willing Member to cover reception costs.

IMLS has offered to cover Commission travel costs for the joint meeting; NCLIS will cover salaries. A memo will be forthcoming from IMLS with details for travel.

Commissioners were reminded to use SATO, the government travel contractor, to obtain government rates. By law, travelers can only be reimbursed the government travel rate, or less. SATO can be reached at 202-554-3082 or 888-279-7456.

Legislative Update

- Title 44 has been introduced under S.2288. Bob and Judy Russell have prepared a page-by-page review of the legislation. The bill establishes a follow-up committee; Bob has insured the Commission's participation in that committee. In addition, he has secured the promise to acknowledge the GPO study within the appropriate place in the legislation. "This is a good opportunity in legislative history to be recognized for the good work of the Commission," he said.

Commissioner Abramson reported that he also read the bill and expressed his concern that NCLIS be included in the process.

- Copyright. The WIPO bill was referred to the House Commerce Committee. At that point, the library community was successful in getting an appropriate consideration of fair use considerations. In addition, the legislation now carries language on database protection.
- Filtering. Bob reported that NCLIS continues to monitor and make the Commission's views known on the McCain/Istook amendments. Vice Chair Gould asked that Judith Farley, NCLIS consultant, call on Monday, August 17, to discuss possible next steps. (Bob reported that Judith is temporarily out of the office due to a family emergency.)

Library Statistics Program

Bob reported that the Library Statistics Program (LSP) is moving forward with the assistance of Howard Harris, NCLIS consultant. In addition, supplemental program funds have been received from NCES.

Two new LSP developments are as follows: (1) To broaden the potential pool for the statistics coordinator position, NCLIS will define the job as a Fellow (an academic person who could retain relationship with his institution); and (2) The possible establishment of a Statistics Council, responsible to the Commission, could provide perspectives of a broader community. "We are now back on track with this Program," Bob announced.

FDLP Study

Woody Horton, NCLIS consultant, reported that two general orientation meetings were held (7/23 and 8/4) to brief participating federal agencies on the survey. All but 3 of the 23 participating agencies attended. The material used to brief them appears on the NCLIS homepage under "News."

Agencies are now reviewing the preliminary list of products sent to them and making their final determinations. Westat has begun interviewing federal agencies, and we are optimistic that we can stay on schedule. A presentation on the study is expected at the NCLIS meeting in September.

NCLIS Toll Free Number

Commissioners were encouraged to call the office on the new NCLIS toll free number, rather than using the credit card. The number is 877-US NCLIS or 877-676-2547. For the moment, this number will not be made generally available to the public.

Personnel Committee

Vice Chair Gould, Chair, Personnel Committee, is making tentative plans to meet with Judy Russell and other Committee Members on Saturday, September 26, or Sunday, September 27, to discuss performance evaluations and updating the NCLIS Administrative Manual.

Montana Meeting

Commissioner Abramson announced that the Mountain Plains Library Association and the Montana Library Association will be held in Big Sky, June 13-16, 1999.